

By these successes we have taken 34 stand of colours, 68 pieces of cannon, a quantity of ammunition, military stores and grain, and near 5000 stand of arms. I have the honour to inclose a return of them, and of the killed and wounded of the detachment, which I am happy to observe is much more trifling than could have been expected. I have also great pleasure in assuring you I have every reason to be perfectly satisfied with the gallantry and discipline of the troops, whose behaviour equalled my most sanguine expectations.

I was now at liberty to have assisted Lt. Col. Hartley; but his little detachment had completely defeated and dispersed the corps opposed to them, and were in possession of Turuckabad, the capital of this coast. It consisted of his Majesty's 75th regiment, the grenadier native battalion, and seven companies of the 7th battalion, amounting to about 1600 men, with ten pieces of cannon, 500 Travancore horse, a battalion of Travancore Sepoys, and a body of irregular Nairs. The enemy's force was about 10,000 men, posted at Ventzetty Cottah, whither Lt. Col. Hartley marched on the 6th of December. They retreated on his approach the 7th, and the fort surrendered on the 8th in the morning. They were found posted in a wood in the front of the village of Tervanangurry. The detachment forced them from thence, and attacked the village, as well as the ground on both sides of it, which were woody, and intersected with hedges and mud banks. The enemy retreated, after disputing the ground, and formed in front and on the flanks of the fort of Trincale, the esplanade of which extends to the village; but our troops advanced with vivacity and spirit, pursued them into the covert way, where many of them were killed, obliged the fort to surrender, and totally dispersed them. Upwards of eight hundred were taken in the fort, and numbers were killed in the different attacks.

Mootaub Khan, who commanded them, retreated to Turuckabad, and the next day he left it, with about 2000 men, and a considerable sum in specie, and fled to the Ghauts. Lt. Col. Hartley advanced to that place on the 10th, when 1500 men, the remains of their army, laid down their arms. A considerable quantity of military and other stores, were captured, and in particular the guns taken from the Travancore lines.

The ports of Barragurry and Cootapore, in the Cartanad country, still remained in the possession of Tippoo's troops. A detachment from hence marched against them the 27th of December, and returned on the 5th inst. with 400 prisoners, which they had taken without any loss. The posts surrendered, after a little opposition, on nearly the same terms as Cannanore.

The object that induced me to visit the coast being compleated, and the antient Nair Princes in possession of their districts, from Biliapatam river to Cape Cormorin, nothing remains to be done with the little force un-

der my command. Having reason, however to imagine his Lordship wishes to unite the detachments, and being persuaded they may be of essential consequence to his future operations, I have determined to remain and wait his orders.

I am pleased at an opportunity of assuring you, that Capt. Byron, of his Majesty's ship Phoenix, has been of essential service, not only by a well directed fire from his ship, but in his exertions in forwarding the public stores, and in landing with two 18 pounders his marines, and a part of his crew, to assist us in the reduction of Carley and Barragurry.

By a letter from Lt. Col. Hartley, received since writing the above, dated Turuckabad, the 6th inst. he advises me, that he had received orders from Gen. Medows to deliver over the charge of Paliacaudcherry to Major Cuppage, who was coming from Coimbatore with two regiments for that purpose, and that he and his detachment were then to consider themselves as under my orders.

Enclosed you will please to receive a general return of the troops encamped at this place; and I have the honour to remain, Sir, your very obedient humble servant,

Signed, ROBERT ABERCROMBY.

(Here follow general returns of the troops encamped near Cannanore, under the command of Major General Robert Abercromby, and of the ordnance, stores, &c. taken in Cannanore fort and other subordinats; also of the killed, wounded, and missing of his Majesty's and the Company's troops, under the command of Lieut. Col. Hartley, in the action of Tervanangurry, December 10th, 1790, amounting in the whole to 5 killed, 50 wounded, and 2 missing; amongst whom the following officers are stated as wounded, viz. Capt. Lawman, artillery; Capt. Blachford, engineers; Lieut. Cha. Stewart, 7th battalion; and Lt. Fireworker Powell, artillery; and of those under the command of Major General Abercromby, the 14th and 15th of Dec. near Cannanore, amounted to 8 killed, and 75 wounded; amongst the latter, Mr. Cochran, surgeon's mate.

*Extract of a letter from the Government of Fort Saint George to the Government of Bombay, entered on their Consultations, 14th December, 1790.*

We have the honour to announce to you that the centre army, under the command of Lieut. Colonel Maxwell, formed a junction with the grand army on the 17th inst. near Covenpatnam, and that Tippoo retired up the Ghauts.

*Fort St. George, Nov. 24, 1790.*

*Extract of a letter from Major Gen. Medows, to the Government of Fort Saint George, entered in the abovementioned Consultations.*

Having marched seven days successively after having crossed the Cavery, I take the first opportunity of a halt to acquaint you with our situation. We are now within fifteen miles of Col. Maxwell, to whom this morning I have sent five squadrons of dragoons, and orders to join us here, which I conclude he will do this day or to-morrow.

The enemy looked at him a few days ago, but not liking, I believe, his judicious position, nor our being so near, declined an engagement. We saw the enemy ourselves the day before yesterday, about 20 miles off, on his return, from Col. Maxwell, pitching his tents, just as we were come to our ground, after a long fatiguing march thro' the pass of Tippoo; but no sooner had we fired three guns as a signal to Col. Maxwell, than he immediately struck his tents again, and proceeded up the Ghauts, by the Oode-neargum pass.

*Covenporam Camp, Nov. 17, 1790.*

## LONDON.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MAY 6.

### CANADA CONSTITUTION.

The order of the day being read for the House going into committee upon the Quebec Bill, Mr. Hobart took the chair.

Mr. BURKE rose to deliver his promised opinion upon the bill then before the Committee.—He said the house were then about to exercise the highest possible act of sovereignty, in the formation of a constitution for the government of a considerable body of men; in doing of which they ought to be well assured of their competence. The first question that therefore arose was, Had they, or had they not, the right to form such government? For if they had not, the forming a wise government would be equally an assumption with the formation of a bad government, and could only extend to a mitigation of that assumption. It was necessary then to enquire where the right originated that we claimed to legislate for Canada.

If the right of legislation, and of forming governments, was to be guided in this country upon the foundation of the rights of men, as taught in another country, and as countenanced by many in this, that doctrine would go to prove the right claimed by this House to be an usurpation, and would, if established, render the duty of Parliament short, for a letter would only then be necessary to Canada, for them to convoke the inhabitants of the province to choose what kind of government they might think proper. There was, however, another ground of right to form a government, namely, the laws of nations;—the question that would then arise was, which of the two were the House to follow, the theoretical rights of men, or the known laws of nations? If the House proceeded, they must proceed upon the latter ground; for having obtained Canada by conquest, we had a right by the law of nations to form a government for her, founded on justice, equity, and for the happiness and actual liberty of the people. We had the cession of the former Sovereign, and the laws of prescription, another part of the laws of nations; and, on those grounds, he was convinced we had a right to make laws for Canada. The next question, having established the right, would be on what principles, and on what examples that law should be founded; the principles on which we should act, he doubted not, would be rea-